# **Christ Lutheran Church**

# Christ Church Comments 4 September 2023

Christ

### Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor: davidhively@gmail.com

> New - Website: christmonroe.com

*Facebook:* Christ Lutheran Church—Monroe, MI

Secretary: Karen secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

Licensed Lay Minister Wayne Butts rwbutts@chartermi.net

Interim Youth Family Ministry Coordinator Carolyn Gardetto cgardetto7@comcast.net

*Newsletter:* secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net Sometimes a song comes along and captures your imagination. That happened to me recently with Sing Over Me. If you are reading the digital version of the newsletter, <u>you can</u> <u>click here to listen to it</u>. I imagine it as one of those songs of lament and trust that would have found its way into the Bible had it been written a few thousand years earlier. As I've been listening to it on repeat, I've been thinking a lot about God's promise that we are never alone in any of the challenges that we face in this life.

The book of Isaiah, chapter 41, verse 10, resonates with powerful words: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This verse is like a soothing balm for the weary soul, reminding us that God's unwavering presence is our constant companion, even in the face of adversity.

### **Step 1: Embrace the Promise:**

In the same vein, let's pause and reflect on the significance of these words. Have you ever felt overwhelmed by challenges? Maybe you're navigating through a difficult situation right now. It's easy to feel lost or discouraged, but take heart! Embrace the promise that God is right there with you, extending a hand of strength and support. In moments of doubt, remember that you are never alone on this journey.

### Step 2: Seek Refuge in Prayer:

Let's explore a practical step that can ground us in God's promise—prayer. Think of prayer as a heart-to-heart conversation with the Divine. When we pour out our worries, hopes, and fears to God, we create a space for holy presence to envelop us. In those moments of vulnerability, we find solace, clarity, and the reassurance that God's love surrounds us. Just like a child seeking comfort in a parent's embrace, let us seek refuge in prayer, knowing that God listens and responds.

### Step 3: Cultivate Community:

Life's challenges can sometimes feel isolating, but we are designed to thrive in connection with others. In times of difficulty, reach out to your church family, friends, or mentors. Share your journey, and allow others to walk alongside you. As a community, we can embody God's promise by offering a listening ear, a helping hand, and a heart full of compassion. Through genuine connections, we become vessels of God's love, reminding each other that God's presence is steadfast, even when the storm rages.

As we step into fall, a new school year, and a new chapter of our lives together we trust that God is with us in all circumstances.

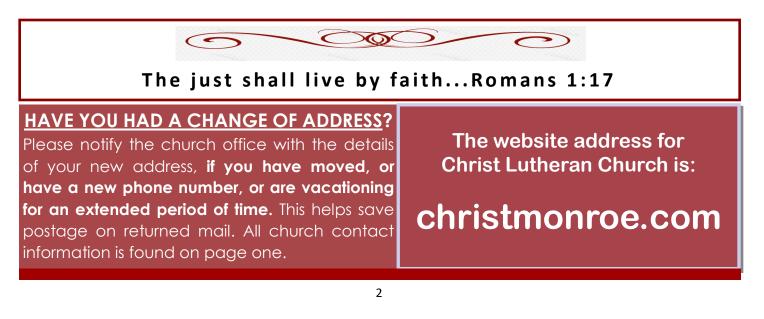
**Embrace the Promise:** Lean into the assurance that God is with you in every circumstance. Let this truth be a source of strength and courage.

**Seek Refuge in Prayer:** Engage in heartfelt conversations with God. Pour out your concerns, hopes, and dreams, and allow God's presence to bring comfort and clarity.

**Cultivate Community:** Reach out to your church family and friends. Share your experiences, and offer support to others facing challenges. Together, we can embody God's promise of presence and love.

Peace,

Pastor David





A sincere thank you to the 23 adult volunteers and 8 teen assistants that worked so patiently and diligently to provide a memorable VBS experience for our children. Twenty-five kids had a lot of fun with their friends playing games, making crafts, singing songs, attending story times, socializing during snack times and learning about our always-loving God.

Your generous donation of time, energy, and supplies is truly appreciated and a blessing to all.

# Family Friendly Event!

Friday, October 27, 2023 6:00 p.m.

### Bring your already carved pumpkin to enter into a contest!

Prize awarded for most creative family submission Play a Game! Make a Craft! Gather Candy! Pizza, salad, donuts and cider will be served Walk though the church and see all the decorations! Please RSVP to Carolyn Gardetto cgardetto7@comcast.net

Party courtesy of the CLC Baptismal Team



at 1:00. "Windswept" by Annabel Abbs

### Scripture Readers

- Thanks to Carol Miller for organizing!
- Sept. 3 Geof Oetjens
- Sept. 10 Hope Link
- Sept. 17 Patrick Lewis
- Sept. 24 Ben Garman

## Ushers

- Thanks to Patrick Lewis for organizing!
- Sept. 3 Geof Oetjens
- Sept. 10 Jim or Mary Jackel
- Sept. 17 Patrick Lewis
- Sept. 24 Gary Huepenbecker

# Assisting Minister

Thanks to Rusty Ward for organizing!

- Sept. 3 TBD
- Sept. 10 Jim Jackel
- Sept. 17 Wayne Butts
- Sept. 24 Rusty Ward

## **CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Summary Operating Statement	<u>July 2023</u>		<u>YTD 2023</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Actual	<b>Budget</b>
Operating income	\$ 18,286	\$ 16,865	\$ 107,172	\$ 122,749
Operating expense	15,929	16,843	118,034	117,001
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$ 2,357	\$22	\$ (10,862)	\$ 5,748

This month we paid everything and had a little surplus. Our expenses for the year has been greater than the income we have received for our general operating budget. We have decreased this amount by another \$2355 this month.